

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

THESE CUTS WILL KILL!

ST. LEONARDS
SAVE
IT
HOSPITAL



"No hospital will be saved by fighting on its own." This was the message given to the Hackney Health Campaign conference by Lindsey Roth, secretary of the Save St Leonards Campaign, and echoed throughout the day by speaker after speaker.

She was outlining the cuts that have already taken place in the Health Service in East London, a horrifying catalogue of butchery on a scale never implemented before.

In the City and Hackney Health District alone these cuts include:

BARTS:

■ 64 beds closed. This is in addition to the 48 closed in 1976 and never re-opened.

■ 10% less out-patients seen.

■ 20% less return patients seen.

■ Operating theatres only to be used at weekends for emergencies.

ST LEONARDS:

■ All four surgical wards to be closed, as planned. (Last year these wards cared for 2000 patients.)

■ The Accident and Emergency Unit, which closed to ambulances on 31 September, is already open only from 8am to 8pm. This will probably be reduced to 9am to 5pm.

GERMAN HOSPITAL:

■ The new psychogeriatric and "sandwich" wards, presently being upgraded, will not be opened again next year unless more money is found. There are now only 15 psychogeriatric beds in Hackney. It is estimated that 82 are required.

ST MATTHEWS

■ Closure still under discussion.

HACKNEY HOSPITAL

■ Economies under discussion although Hackney is working hard to take up the extra

load created by the rundown of St Leonards.

GENERALISED CUTS

■ Cuts in maintenance, catering, fuel, posts left unfilled and no agency staff.

In the remainder of the East London Area, the situation is, if anything, even worse. Both Tower Hamlets and Newham, the other boroughs covered by the Area Health Authority (AHA) have just as bad conditions and are facing closures just as severe.

Carl Brecker, who also spoke at the Health Campaign conference, represent Fightback, a nationally co-ordinated campaign against cuts in the Health Service said that mobilisation against the Government's plans will require a campaign on a scale never seen before.

Urgency

This theme was repeated by Ian Barber, a NUPE officer working in East London. In general, the fight does not involve the people whose health service it is, except in certain cases. One of these was last year in the fight to save Bethnal Green hospital, where there was tremendous local concern.

He also emphasised the urgency that might be needed. Mobilisation might be necessary at 24 hours notice, he said, and the unions were organising a conference of shop stewards to build up co-operation.

Speakers from the floor pointed out the other aspects of the health service cuts.

The community health sector is also affected - school dental services, family planning clinics etc. Also the abortion facilities in the borough were inadequate enough already - and separately threatened by the Corrie Bill.

Dennis Timms, chairperson of the City and Hackney Community Health Council - which is supposed to be the public's access into the NHS, which, of course, has no teeth - said that he thought that Hackney Council should seek to get its nominees reappointed to the AHA. (Steve Scott had resigned when the cuts were first announced, in the hope that other local authorities would also withdraw their nominees, thus making the AHA unconstitutional. This didn't happen.) He also suggested that a Labour group of members of the AHA be formed, so that some concerted opposition could be formulated. He added to

that that some Labour members of the AHA had expressed very reactionary views in private. He thought that the AHA was probably the worst in London.

In the afternoon the conference divided into three workshops, which dealt with how to fight the cuts, their impact and health needs.

All of these stressed the need for much more widely available information and co-ordination on all areas of the Health Service. The workshop on fighting the cuts, argued both for small specialised campaigns (on issues such as staff shortages in a particular hospital) but for these to be linked to a larger district-based campaign, which would pool resources, provide a flow of information and co-ordinate activity.

The workshop on health needs attacked the incompetence of the AHA administrators, claiming that although NHS budgets have steadily increased, the standard of health care has actually gone down.

The conference ended by passing four resolutions, calling for more co-ordination, the broadening of support through speaking to estate meetings etc, and calling for support for the mass lobby of Parliament called on 7th November and for the week of action beginning on 26th November (when Patrick Jenkin, the Social Services Minister, will be visiting the area. It also supported the action of workers at the London Hospital who are blacking private beds.

As part of their attempts to broaden support, HPP has asked the Hackney Health Campaign to write monthly articles about the progress of the campaign. The first of these will be published next month.

50th
ISSUE

inside...

12 pages

Special
Features

● **SHEILA ROWBOTHAM**

on ten years of the women's movement in Hackney.

● **CRISPIN AUBREY**

on the alternative press.

2 Kids'
Pages

plus

● **BLAIR PEACH**
EDUCATION CUTS
REVIEWS

Nazi planning protest

The opening of the planning enquiry into the National Front's use of their premises in Great Eastern Street as a headquarters will be marked by a major demonstration organised by Hackney Trades Council.

The torchlit procession will assemble at Shoteditch Church at 7pm on Monday 3rd December and march past the so-called "Excalibur House" on its way to a rally on the Town Hall steps in Mare Street, where the enquiry will open in the

morning.

The march will be led by three coffins, symbols of local victims of recent racist murders. Among the other sponsors are local anti-racist organisations and the South East Region of the TUC.

The Trades Council petitioned the Borough Council to lead the mobilisation against the NF, but were turned down. Secretary Dermot McNeill asked a Policy Committee meeting to "stand four-square in

opposition to the National Front."

Martin Ottolangui, the Council leader, replied by saying that the Council would take the legal advice that it should not prejudice its own case on planning grounds against the Front, however much individual members felt.

Various organisations - as well as the Council - are being represented by lawyers at the enquiry. Contact Hackney Community Link-Up, 729 5536, for details.

ILEA - HOW NOT TO SPEND £25m.

Faced with a Government demand to chop £25m. off its budget, the Inner London Education Authority is still uncertain of its policy on implementing cuts in education. At an ILEA Education Committee meeting on 9th October, the ruling Labour Group put forward a motion which agreed to implement savings on condition that certain key areas of education be safeguarded. The motion was lost by one vote, and 2 "rebel" labour representatives, Ken Livingstone and Charles Rossi, voted against the motion (being opposed to cuts in principle).

Threats

The Labour motion, put forward by Sir Ashley Bramall, Leader of the Authority, acknowledged that "in the light of threats by the Government" not to meet the rate support grant and in its demand for a 5% cut in local government expenditure, the Committee should adopt "contingency plans" to carry out the savings (amounting to £25m.). The condition was that 'key areas' of education were to be exempted from any cutbacks. These are:

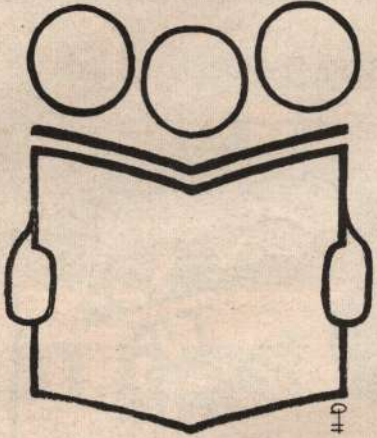
to maintain pupil-teacher ratios;

to avoid redundancies of full-time staff;

to preserve planned staffing ratios in primary schools, nursery education, the careers service, and provision for the 16-19 age group and disruptive pupils;

to maintain the present school meals system.

Ken Livingstone, GLC Member for Hackney North and one of the 2 Labour Representatives who voted against his Group's motion, said that the Labour Leadership was going back on its promise to improve pupil-teacher ratios, with which it won control of the ILEA in 1977. He also believes that the school age population in Hackney is not falling, but rising at a rate of 5% due to the influx of



young families into the borough. Councillor Les Layward (Hackney Rep.) was "unable to attend" the meeting, but attacked Ken Livingstone and Charles Rossi for voting against their own Party. He added that it was useless to oppose the cuts in principle, as "the Government aren't making any cuts, they're just not giving out as much money".

Postponement

At the full Authority meeting on 22nd October, the ILEA Labour Group revised its position and called for the postponement of any policy on education cuts until the next meeting (in December), after the Government has announced its revision of the rate support grant. In the meantime, Sir Ashley asked each sub-committee to prepare forecasts on the effects of 5 per cent cuts, 3 per cent cuts and no cuts.

Whatever the rate support grant will be, it is unlikely that the ILEA will overwhelmingly reject spending cuts. The Labour Group fear that if it did put up a stand then the Government may abolish the ILEA - in the same way they 'suspended' the 'rebel' Area Health Authorities of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham for refusing to implement cuts in health care. However, even if vital sectors of education were protected, the effects of a 5% (or more) cut on London's schools and higher education colleges would still be a great destruction of an essential service to the boroughs. (See box.)

The 5% spending reduction will save no more than 15p per family per week, which is small compensation for the loss of 1200 teaching jobs and decimation of school resources. Also, the bulk of the £17m. saved in rate reductions would be by commercial ratepayers (£13m.).

Ken Livingstone says that in the weeks prior to the next ILEA meeting people should lobby their elected representatives to oppose any reduction in education in their borough. Meanwhile, a circular has been seen floating around schools calling for a 15% cut in transport. It was suggested that this is nothing to do with the cuts, but is a result of the GLC's oil crisis.

Just what you lose:

618 primary teachers; 370 secondary teachers; 38 special teachers; 150 In-Service training staff. (TOTAL: 1176 teaching jobs)

£1m. cuts in pupil-teacher ratios in higher education colleges and polytechnics; £120,000 cut in youth leader budget; £700,000 cut in school transport; £1.6m. cut in administration; £1m. cut in maintenance.

2½% cut in technical staff; 7½% cut in school resources (capitation & AUR); 50% cut in furniture replacement.

School meals up to 35p in September; Adult Education fees up from £8.30 to £11 per class while reducing courses to 30 weeks. Closure of Gorsebrook games centre.

Support for Travellers Finds Focus

The first meeting of Hackney Travellers Support Group was held at Centerprise on October 11th when a draft constitution was formally accepted by the fourteen people present.

The next meeting of Hackney Travellers Support Group will be held in the basement at Centerprise on Thursday November 8th at 7.30pm.

At that meeting it is proposed to discuss how we might campaign for suitable permanent sites in Hackney and their subsequent management.

A report will also be dis-

cussed on how we might find a Welfare Rights Service - including health care - for travellers in Hackney.

The initial meeting was encouraging in that it brought together representatives from a variety of organisations including Teachers, Womens Aid, Minority Rights Group, Centerprise staff and ACERT.

The GLC were, unfortunately, successful in gaining possession of their land in Waterden Road which means the travellers will have to move from that site shortly with further disruption to the education of

their children, in some cases the delay in granting of social security, and without a fixed base for the winter.

Hackney Travellers Support Group needs to consider urgently the provision of a site and rights service.

Membership of the Group is open to anyone who is interested in working for the benefit of Travellers in the Borough.

Further details from Lois Pollock, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

'Troops Out' demand launched

Following the successful demonstration calling for Britain to withdraw from Northern Ireland on the 12th August, a national petition with the same demand is to be launched on November 17th.

The petition has been organised by the groups who sponsored the 12th August Organising Committee, which is now called the Committee for Withdrawal from Ireland. The Committee is supported by the Young Liberals, Young Communist League, Connolly

Association, Socialist Workers Party, New Communist Party, the Campaign for Democracy in Ulster and others.

It is hoped to collect a million signatures for the 'Ireland - time to go' petition. A number of people and groups in Hackney have expressed a desire to form a local group to organise support for the petition.

More information will be available within a few weeks.

CUTS - the Irish Connection



...AND NOW, A REPORT ON THE LATEST SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND...

With the public spending cuts in everyone's mind at present the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) does not seem to be an immediately important issue. The PTA seems to pale into insignificance alongside campaigns against school cuts in Hackney or the closure of St Leonards - issues which seem to have much more direct relevance. But without a political perspective which can challenge the actions of the state on all fronts the local anti-cuts campaigns that get off the ground, no matter how militant, will eventually fail.

The attack on individual schools, hospitals and services is only part of a systematic attack on the working class. While people can often be won to opposing a particular closure, it is even more important, if a significant fightback is to take place that workers are won to opposing the whole strategy of the cuts. This means recognising that attacks on the working class take different forms.

In relation to Ireland, where the British state is at present engaged in a war, the results of divisions in the working class are quite clear. The war is at least passively accepted by large parts of the working class. Yet if we support the British state in Ireland, acting in

the "national interest", how can we oppose the cuts which are also put forward as being in the "national interest"?

The PTA is the extension of the Irish war into Britain. It is an Act whereby anyone who speaks out on Ireland in this country is liable to arrest and detention for up to seven days without access to a lawyer. So effective has it been, with over 4000 arrests carried out since it was first introduced by a Labour government in 1974 that many Irish people are afraid to discuss the war in public as they can be deported unless they have been here 20 years or more. Over 160 people have been deported in the last five years - most of them because they oppose the war in Ireland.

A demonstration protesting against the PTA has been called by the Revolutionary Communist Tendency on 24 November, starting at Kennington Park (Oval tube) and marching to Brixton Prison, where many of those deported have been held. We urge you to support this demonstration, as without raising such questions we cannot be successful in our fight against the cuts.

More information from: BM RCT, London WCLV 6XX. (274 3951).

Geoff Morris, East London RCT.

NO COVER-UP!



The campaign to secure justice in the case of Blair Peach's murder at Southall continues. The latest development in the Coroner's Court is that the family of Blair Peach won leave from the High Court to apply to the Divisional Court for the right to have a jury sitting alongside the Coroner. Given that even if this request is granted, then time will be needed to assemble a jury (and vet it?), and it is therefore unlikely that the Coroner's Court will reconvene at least until the beginning of December.

Meanwhile, the police continue to refuse to provide the Peach family lawyer with advance copies of witnesses' statements, thus seriously hampering any degree of fairness in the cross-examination procedures. In much

the same vein, the police barrister seems quite unaware of the purpose of the inquest - to discover the precise cause of Blair's death and who was responsible - and seems to be mostly preoccupied with discrediting the statements of the eye-witnesses.

During the same period, the magistrates at Barnet Court have carried on convicting many of the 342 people arrested on the same day as Blair's death, and notching up a conviction rate of about 85 per cent of all cases appearing, to the extent that this has actually become embarrassing to many members of the legal profession. Both the Southall Defence Fund and the Blair Peach Memorial Fund are near to running out of money and are both re-

issuing appeals for funds. Both campaigns are likely still to face very big legal bills.

One of the most impressive initiatives of the campaign was the call for pickets of police stations throughout the country the night before the Blair Peach Inquest finally reconvened. An estimated 10,000 people attended torchlit pickets in towns and cities everywhere, including our own Dalston and Stoke Newington police stations. This did not receive any attention at all in the press or on the radio or television.

Hackney Council at its meeting on 24 October heard Deputy Leader John Kotz read a statement deploring the lack of police action in the Blair Peach case, commemorating Blair's work as a local schoolteacher and calling for both a full public enquiry and the disbanding of the SPG. This received full support of the Council. The number of national bodies calling for the public enquiry is now enormous and it will be interesting to see how long the government can continue to ignore this demand.

LATEST ON THE LORRIES

On October 3rd the question of a night-time and weekend ban on heavy lorries using the rat-run between Hackney Wick and Highbury Corner, was talked about at a full council meeting of the GLC. Not surprisingly, they decided not to entertain the idea because they said it would put undue pressure on other streets, which is to say that they were unwilling to look at other solutions. However, they did decide to look at the problem again when some more research was done on heavy lorry traffic on the road.

While this decision is disappointing, the most disappointing thing about the GLC's thinking is that the wider issues are always ignored. The problem is not that there are heavy lorries using Graham Road or Balls Pond Road, but that they are using Inner London streets at all. The only solution is to push for a night-time and weekend ban (and eventually a total ban) on all inner-London streets.

Although the GLC rejected the move, two local GLC councillors, Simon Turney and Margaret Morgan aligned themselves with the Stop the Lorries movement by supporting the motion.

HORACE CUTLER

This inability to tackle the wider issues was demonstrated by Sir Horace Cutler in his reply to the Balls Pond Rd. Group, in which he did not mention anything about bringing London into line with other European countries - one of which, Italy, has a nationwide ban on heavy lorries on Sundays. Nor did he answer the accusation that the M25 (whenever it gets built) will only decrease heavy lorry through traffic by 2%.

He also said that his council is introducing local bans where possible -

but this is just another way of saying that it is GLC policy to have motorway traffic going along London streets; also that they have no intention of making this traffic use roads built for it.

Sir Arthur Ammitage, recently appointed by the Minister of Transport to undertake an independent inquiry on lorries and their impact on the environment, is inviting the submission of evidence.

NORMAN FOWLER

Transport Minister Norman Fowler said that its terms of reference were "To consider the causes and consequences of the growth in the movement of freight by road and, in particular, of the impact of the lorry on people and their environment; and to report on how best to ensure that future development serves the public interest."

"We need to see how the public interest is best served, taking account of economic benefits, the efficiency of road freight transport, and the damage and disruption which lorries can cause. In particular, the inquiry must face squarely the issue of whether there should be any change in the present limits on maximum weight."

Evidence should be submitted by 9th November, 1979. The inquiry would like to have as soon as possible any evidence, or part of any evidence, which is ready before 9th November. Evidence should be sent to the secretary to the inquiry, Mr. P. Wood, Room 1/3, Old Admiralty Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AZ, tel: 01-273 3045.

DISQUIETING

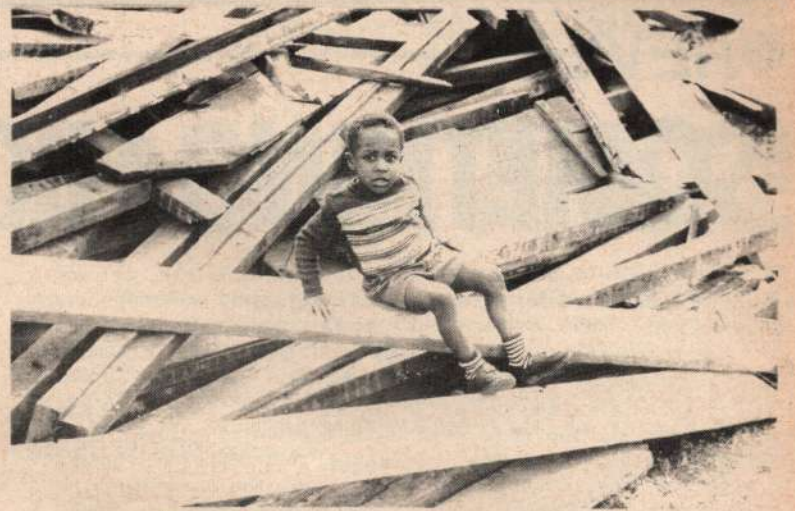
The campaign has not been helped by the fact that the Commission for Racial Equality has decided that its report is so disquieting that it has refused to make it public. The National Council for Civil Liberties has also not published the interim independent report it promised, and will now publish only a full report in December.

A short anthology of children's writing from Phoenix School in Bow, where Blair Peach taught, has just been published and is available from the Centerprise bookshop. It has been designed to commemorate Blair's particularly inspiring work with young people in the teaching of reading and writing where he had earned himself a high reputation.

Finally, on a local level again, there will be an exhibition about Southall opening shortly at Centerprise. It is designed to be a travelling exhibition giving an insight into the events of April 23 and subsequent happenings, in photos and text. It hopes to show to people who have not been able to get a full picture from the standard press, the full shory of the Blair Peach tragedy and the continuing legal travesties which have followed through since then concerning the 342 Southall people arrested on that same day, and whose fines may well still amount to over £100,000.

There will also be an evening of poetry, music and dance, organised by the Tower Hamlets Trades Council in conjunction with the Friends of Blair Peach Committee, on Sunday 25 November at 7.30 pm in the Brady Club, Hanbury Street, E1. Tickets are £1 in advance from THTC, 2 Cable Street, E1. Entertainment will be from Southall and the Brick Lane area and promises to be full of fun and music.

Ken Worpole
Friends of Blair
Peach Committee



A place to play

If you live on an estate in Hackney you know already that your kids are not really catered for. At many tenants' meetings kids are often talked about as a "problem" or a "nuisance". Bored kids with nowhere to play or meet their friends can cause problems. The Hackney Play Association believes that more play facilities for kids are essential, not only for the development of children themselves, but for a better community as a whole.

After school and in the holidays, how many Hackney kids roam the streets for lack of a place to go?

How many have the use of estate or community-based play facilities?

Does your estate have a playflat or children's house? A playground or games pitch? Even a safe playstreet?

The Play Association has

organised a public meeting about "Play On Estates" to find out answers to these questions and to offer some solutions. Speakers will include Ernie Roberts, MP for North Hackney, local councillors, representatives from Hackney Federation of Tenants' Associations, Fair Play for Children, London Association of Adventure Playgrounds and from local groups who want play facilities on their estates.

Please come to the meeting to help decide how to increase and improve play provision on estates.

"Play On Estates" public meeting at 7.30 pm Wednesday 14 November in the Community Hall, Hindhead Estate, Holmleigh Road, N16. A creche will be provided.

For further information, contact HPA on 254 5319 from Tuesday to Friday 10am-1pm.

ADVERTISEMENT

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL congratulates HPP on its 50th issue

Hackney Trades Council, official representatives of the TUC in Hackney, with an affiliated membership of 16,000, looks forward to a close relationship with the Hackney People's Press in the struggle against the Tory Government.

No to public service cuts!
No to anti-trade union legislation!

Secretary

Dermot McNeill
6 Geldeston Road
London E5 8RQ.
01-806 7897.

Chairman

Gerry McMorrow.

●REVIEW

'SOMETHING LIKE A MIRACLE'

As public spending cuts bite deeper and the attack on the living standards of working people continue, we look at a new book which shows how a Labour Borough Council led the fightback 60 years ago.

Imagine the scene: the town hall of an East London borough, not at all far from Hackney. A worldwide slump is affecting the country, unemployment is rising, public expenditure cuts are being imposed. The council has a solid Labour majority. The chairman of the public health committee rises. The council faces appalling poverty, he says. Desperate conditions compel them to take action. Another councillor says that for a year they have tried to deal with the matter on constitutional lines, but they have been met only by "windy and wordy statements of government officials meant to hoodwink them". It was time that the ratepayers knew of the hypocrisy and criminal indifference of central government.

Now the council has to fix the rates for the coming quarter. These will have to be higher yet again, to meet the increased costs of fighting poverty and poor conditions. Yet a rate rise will inevitably hit the poor and the unemployed hardest of all. What can they do?

Their solution is quite simple. The council also has to collect the rates on behalf of other authorities, like the Metropolitan Police,

the Water Board and the London County Council. They will refuse to collect these rates, and raise only what they need for themselves. At a stroke, the rates they will have to collect from the people of the borough are reduced by 40 per cent. The mayor says that this action might well land them in the bankruptcy court. If that happens, he adds, "Well, let it be so." The motion is carried overwhelmingly.

Not surprisingly, the other authorities are very upset by the council refusing to collect their rates. They take the council to court. The Lord Chief Justice grants them a writ to force the council to pay up. They still refuse. The Lord Chief Justice then threatens them with prison, and a few weeks later, with the councillors still refusing, 30 are arrested and taken to Brixton and Holloway jails. After six weeks, the other authorities climb down. A conference is arranged with the council, and the 30 are released with the money still unpaid. Four thousand enthusiastic people welcome them home and there is a "monster demonstration" finishing with a rally in Victoria Park.

This is a true story, by



George Lansbury

the way. It all happened in the borough of Poplar, in the autumn of 1921, and is documented in a new book, "Poplarism 1919-1925" by Noreen Branson, published by Lawrence and Wishart. It is a fascinating story to read, nearly 60 years after the event, when the problems don't seem to have changed at all. What has changed since then is the role of councillors, especially Labour councillors. The Labour Party was very young then. There had never been a Labour government. Some of its members were also members of the even younger Communist Party (then it was possible to be in both parties at the same time). The revolution in Russia had happened only four years previously, and inspired many socialists of that time, especially those who were engaged in campaigning against the bloody slaughter of the first World War. One of these was George Lansbury. He was a Christian pacifist, who had been a member of the Poplar council for 16 years, and was resigned to a life of opposition, until in 1919, in his words, "something like a miracle happened". Labour was elected, and he became the Party's first

mayor. Lansbury was the inspiration behind the Poplar revolt and the whole movement which became called Poplarism later in the 1920s.

As the recession of the decade hit living standards harder and harder, the people of Poplar stayed rock solid behind their council. The votes in council elections were always much higher than in the rest of London, and Poplar was one of the few councils to remain Labour when the Tories swept back in 1922. (In Hackney every single Labour councillor, including Herbert Morrison, lost his seat).

Lansbury never believed that Poplarism was the complete answer, but while capitalism existed socialists should fight to alleviate its consequences. The question was, he wrote, "whether the Labour movement means business. Are we going to attempt to carry out what we say on the platform, or are we to be misled and side-tracked by considerations of 'statesmanship'?"

Noreen Branson presents the whole story vividly and sympathetically. Lansbury and the Poplar councillors are the heroes and heroines, and they are sold out and finally defeated by some of their colleagues in the Labour party (Herbert Morrison, then mayor of Hackney, and Ramsay MacDonald, when he became the first Labour prime minister, being the worst offenders) and by the reactionary Tory government which followed Labour's defeat in the 1924 general election.

The only pity about the book is that it has not been published in paperback, so that its price (£7.50) is very prohibitive. But order it from the library and get your friends to order it too!

●REVIEW
FIGHTING
SEXISM

The sixth anti-sexist men's newsletter has just been published, and it's easily the best so far and well worth reading. Various different men's groups take turns at producing it, and that goes some way to explaining why the quality of the first few issues has varied. However, it now seems to have settled down to being educational, informative and thoroughly readable.

The two longest articles are both about childcare. One is called, "Notes From A Black Day", about bringing up a baby, which is very readable and complains that he 'only meets Jan's friends, mostly feminists who take this for granted, as well they may, but I get no positive reinforcement'. The other piece is headed "Anger About Childcare" from a man who says he is not envious but who says he feels denied and frustrated.

Another two articles in the newsletter discuss the anti-sexist commitments for



men, first listed at the Manchester men's conference earlier this year. This list, which is still a list of proposals for discussion, tries to mark out some kind of common ground between men opposed to sexism. They are "a list of commitments which we are working towards being able to live out".

1. Commitment to a Men Against Sexism group.
2. Consciousness-raising.
3. Importance of Therapy.
4. To support the Women's Liberation movement.
5. Gay Liberation.
6. Relating to children.
7. Renouncing oppressive violence.
8. Reading and learning from feminist and gay culture.
9. Action on our own behalf to transform the restricted

Poetry
disappoints

On 16th October, Hackney Library Services presented an evening of poetry and prose as part of the Hackney Festival at the Town Hall. To say it was disappointing is an understatement.

Jane Casson and John Westbrook did the reading and their selection left a lot to be desired. Hackney is a multi-racial, multi-cultural and working class borough, yet all the authors read from were white, English (except Walt Whitman) and from the last century. Where were all the African, Caribbean, Asian and Mediterranean writers? Are they irrelevant? Second-rate? Or are we suffering under someone's subjective racism? - In effect it had no relevance to the people of Hackney. No wonder creative writing, especially poetry has become marginalised amongst the working class.

LIVING

I had always thought readings of poetry and prose were living; an alive experience, and was really shocked to discover people portraying it, in their middle-English accents and modulated radio tones, as dead. And in so doing betraying the dreams of the poets they chose let alone the poets' lives. The Shelley of 'The Mask of Anarchy', the Keats of 'Endymion' and the Whitman of 'Leaves of Grass' would have denounced being denied their humanity and relevance to all people. And in so doing would have denounced the exclusion of poets relevant to today's multi-cultural experience in Hackney. Expecting gold we were offered lead.

Finally, the winning poem in the section 'a Hackney Theme' was crass in the extreme. Titled "Springfield Park" the poem attacked the low pay strike of last winter. The park was closed and rubbish lay rotting in the streets and even the crocus could not alleviate the anger of the poet. Instead of helping the strikers to win a better deal and end this justifiable strike quickly, a poem attacking them was written. There is no objection to people writing what they like, but for a Labour controlled council to endorse the right-wing politics of the adjudicator, one Dannie Abse, is tantamount to treason against its workers, who in the main are its supporters.

Hopefully next year's festival will be more truly representative of Hackney's working class experience.

Les Skeates,
Hackney Writer's Workshop.

life chances offered us in a patriarchal society.
10. Reaching out to other men.
11. Linking up.

There are a lot of other articles and small ads in the 34-page newsletter, which is currently duplicated, and if enough support is given to it, it could become a very useful publication providing a long-awaited extra resource for anti-sexist men.

The Anti-Sexist Men's Newsletter is available from Centerprise or by subscription (25p per issue or £3 for 12 issues) from Misha Woolf, 12 Terrapin Road, London SW17.

HACKNEY
COMMUNIST
PARTY SENDS
GREETINGS
TO HPP ON ITS
50TH ISSUE

The building of a democratic press and media at the service of the labour movement and community is a vital task.

50th ISSUE

LOOKING FROM A LOCAL ANGLE

We have decided to mark the fiftieth issue of Hackney People's Press by inviting two local writers to talk about some of their own experiences in Hackney over the last six years or so. Overleaf SHEILA ROWBOTHAM writes about the women's movement in Hackney, its sudden growth and its position now. Below CRISPIN AUBREY, who was a member of the original group that

got together to produce the very first issue, writes about what happened then, and makes some useful criticisms of the paper's position now. On page 8, CHARLES FOSTER, who is still a member of the present collective, writes a personal account of the kind of community politics that he thinks the paper should promote.

Providing an alternative voice

The first issue of Hackney People's Press was nothing if not optimistic. "The People Take The Land" read the front page headline in letters almost two inches high. Underneath was a story about how a group of people living in the de Beauvoir area had given up waiting for the Council to act, moved in on a derelict site and turned it into an adventure playground. It was certainly direct action, if not quite the revolutionary act we heralded. But then you had to start big.

The paper emerged from an amalgamation of two existing publications. Hackney Gutter Press had been running since 1969 and was one of the first of a wave of alternative papers in London. Like Islington Gutter Press, which followed soon after, it represented a broadly libertarian movement whose activities were evident across a broad spectrum of political activity - squatting, claimants' unions, women's groups, food co-ops, etc. The Gutter Press's symbol, a clenched fist rising from the gutter, was intended to show how ordinary people could change and control their lives. On the other hand, Hackney Action was a more recent paper produced inside Centerprise itself and concerned more with "community" issues - what was happening in Hackney in terms of childcare, housing, education. Both had, however, lost some of their initial energy and a combination of forces seemed the right solution.

HANDFUL

Getting the new Hackney People's Press out on to the streets was never easy. All the work, from writing the articles, typing them, taking pictures, doing the layout, right through to distribution, was done by a handful of people. It was a full-time part-time commitment. The only thing we didn't do was the printing. Even so, that process of doing it yourself, learning how to Letraset a headline, lay out a page, write a report from scratch, was one thing that made the work exciting.

What those early HPPs were trying to do was to give an alternative voice to all the different struggles going on in the borough, from housing to work conditions, as well as publicising the sort of fringe events which rarely get mentioned in the Hackney Gazette. Some of the best articles were those which

had people actually talking about their experiences, explained local history or analysed local conditions in a way the commercial press never would, for instance a two-page spread about the Lesney's car factory. There were also some amusing and original ideas, like a Dalston Good Food Guide.

PROBLEMS

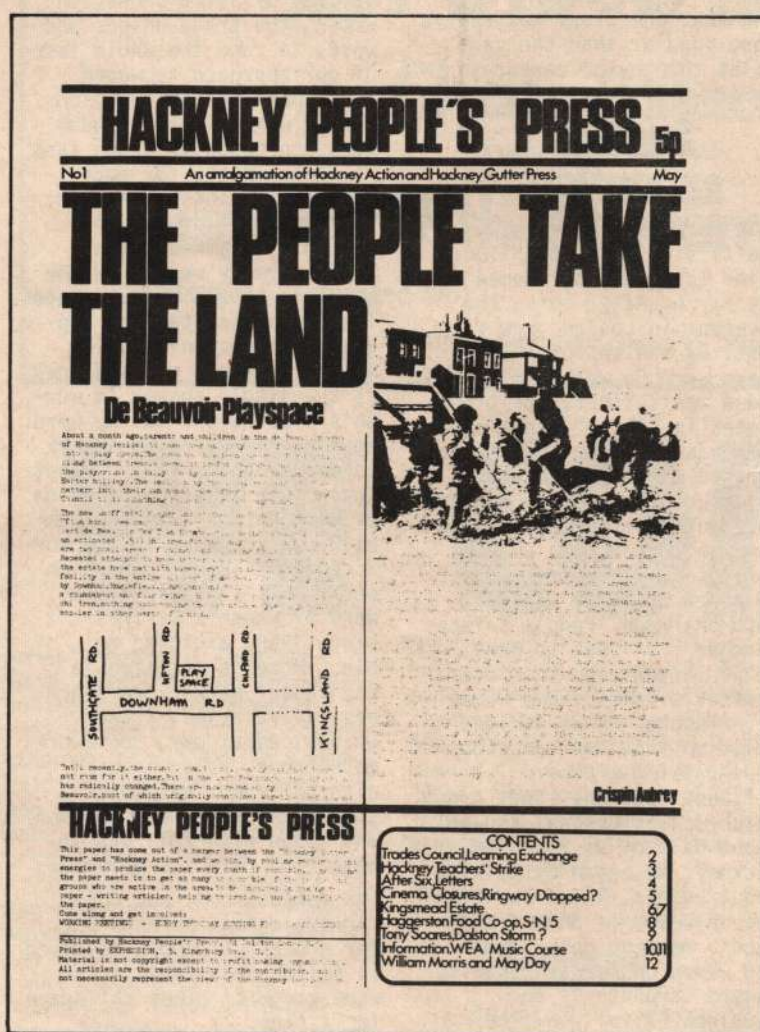
But what the paper never resolved during the three years it survived until its temporary demise in July 1975 was exactly who it was writing for and what it was trying to say. It was obvious, and still is, that the Hackney Gazette had failed to get to grips with even the traditional Labour Party politics of the borough, failed to look much further for stories than Council minutes and the police station, and was happy to stick to showing how Hackney locals had made good by appearing on TV. Even in its own terms, it is one of the least adventurous local commercial papers in London. But though an alternative was clearly needed, actually providing it for a diverse population of 200,000-odd people proved more complicated.

It may seem depressing to take the opportunity of the paper's 50th issue - an achievement for any local radical paper - to talk about its historical problems. But these are problems which many similar ventures around the country encounter, and are therefore worth airing.

From the start, the paper wanted to be independent of political parties and groups, though basically situated on the left. But there was a



conflict between those, working in the Gutter Press tradition, who saw it as part of a broader struggle for workers' and people's rights and those who wanted to concentrate on what changes, however small, could be made in the local area's social conditions. The two weren't, and aren't incompatible, but articles about say, the Three-Day Week or the Shrewsbury



The first issue of Hackney People's Press, May 1973.

Building Pickets often sat uncomfortably beside a guide to local playgroups. In the process the paper was seen as extremist by the local mainstream labour movement and yet not enough of a Hackney paper to satisfy community activists.

At the same time, the paper's way of working tended to encourage this confused result. With only a handful of regular workers, we were always trying to get new people involved. Just as anybody was invited to come along to meetings and join in, we collected contributions from a whole range of different groups and campaigns. Having asked people to write, and with the philosophy of a 'people's paper', it was difficult then to play an editorial role. Similarly, some of the newcomers would have completely different ideas about what the paper should say, or required an enormous amount of time in terms of teaching the skills of layout or typing. Yet like all newspapers, there was a deadline which we had to keep.

Distribution was always a headache, as it is for most radical papers. We went round a list of newsagents, sold directly on estates,

took copies to various community projects, especially Centerprise, and made a few not very successful sorties into pubs. The newsagents weren't always very friendly and in one pub we were told that the last time someone tried to sell papers there was such an argument that a fight developed. Selling direct was good for talking to the people who actually read it, but very time-consuming. And in the background there was always the hard economic fact that without advertising we had to scrape together all the 5ps from various people's pockets to pay the printer. Sometimes the equation just didn't balance.

As for what people actually thought of the paper, this was difficult to judge. Did they actually read all those long and worthy articles? Without a permanent office, or full-time workers, feedback was inevitably poor. But then they did go on buying it, issue after issue.

I don't pretend to have all the answers to these problems nor a blueprint for the survival of a radical local paper. We did make some attempts to solve some of them, from trying to establish closer links with some

local tenants' groups and trade union organisations to improving the distribution system. But it often appeared that we were spending more time on establishing an alternative production process rather than producing a readable alternative paper.

It's interesting to see how other papers around the country have faced the same issues. Though the "movement" has had ups and downs, there are now up to 100 similar newsheets in towns and boroughs. Islington Gutter Press, for instance, has moved away from the open system of accepting all-comers and skill-sharing and now describes itself as "Islington's Only Socialist Paper". It is nearing its 70th issue and sells about 1,600 copies a month. Rochdale Alternative Paper has gone for a professional, journalistic approach with hard news of local wheeler-dealing in the council and business. Its circulation is 6,000-plus, and it provides a unique service to local trade unionists - a file of the latest accounts of every local firm. But then, both those papers, with their different strategies, are closely linked to printing presses, and the important income they produce.

WAKING UP

What is equally important, and a hopeful sign, is that the labour movement is now waking up to the importance of local papers. The TUC recently adopted a policy which in theory, if not in practice, encourages the development of a local printed opposition to the capitalist press. Others are actually doing it; in both Hull and Dundee weekly papers are being launched based specifically on either trade unions or broad left groups.

I am not suggesting that the current Hackney People's Press should sacrifice its independence nor abandon its policy of openness - giving people the ability to learn how to do it themselves. It has already faced far more successfully some of the problems of the early days, in particular the conflict between being a "people's paper" and yet being firmly rooted in the left. What should happen, however, is that a far wider range of local groups, from trade unions to tenants' associations, should realise its importance and discuss far more seriously its potential.

Crispin Aubrey

WOMEN...

THIS IS A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF WHAT I CAN REMEMBER OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN HACKNEY, AND MY EXPERIENCE IN A WOMEN'S LIBERATION GROUP IN ARSENAL. I HOPE IT MIGHT LEAD TO ARTICLES BY OTHER WOMEN ABOUT ASPECTS OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT LOCALLY WHICH I HAVE EITHER BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON, OR LEFT OUT BECAUSE I DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THEM.

The first women's liberation group in Hackney began in the autumn of 1970. We were a continuation of one of the earliest groups in London which had met in Islington since 1969. We had to move because the house we met in was sold. So we called ourselves "Islington-Hackney Women's Liberation Workshop Group". At this time, there were seven groups in the London workshop network. The word "workshop", which had been used in the American and British new left in the sixties carried the idea of working together equally and of organisation as a process.

Our group produced one of the early issues of "Shrew" in October 1970. Each group took turns to do "Shrew" so everyone's views could be expressed. Our issue included a lot of discussion about playgroups and nurseries because we had tried that summer to find out what kind of facilities for small children were needed in Islington by knocking on people's doors and asking them. We felt even then that we did not just need more, we needed different kinds of provision in which people had a say.

A single mother in "Gingerbread" and a woman with two young children were the main influences behind this and there was a long article about being housebound. There was also an interview with a West Indian woman from Hackney about nurseries, abortions, racism and relationships with men.

Next we produced a "love" story as propaganda for birth control based on a true story a schoolgirl told one of us and a short pamphlet about women's liberation for schools with good cartoons drawn by Jenny Fortune in "The Women's Newspaper". We

thought up all the critical questions people said and each woman took one home and wrote her answer. Then we put it together. These were very basic and very clear - but I found in teaching that the story was always more popular than the pamphlet though the cartoons were a hit.

Sudden expansion

In March 1971, there was the first big women's liberation International Women's Day march. After this, the movement in London grew very fast. By the end of 1971, there were 56 workshop groups and a men's liberation group listed in "Shrew". This expansion was exciting but it overwhelmed our old network structure. We could no longer have our general meetings in someone's room! Now even at our local Dalston meetings, 40 women would be crowding into one room. People's faces changed from week to week. We no longer even knew one another's names. Some women never spoke. So we decided to split up into two consciousness-raising groups.

I went into the study group which met at Arsenal though about half of us lived in Hackney. We began by talking about Engels, Reich and Simone de Beauvoir and we organised a meeting open to men and women on Bernard Shaw's, Edward Carpenter's and Havelock Ellis' views on women's position. Reading these writers led us on to thinking about the family. We talked about our relationships with our parents and children, about the family as a place of work for women and tried to see how the family fitted into a capitalist society.

In 1971, a few of us became involved in the night cleaners' campaign, concentrating on leafleting in the City where many women from Hackney and East London were working. We held meetings in the City and in Hackney with the cleaners. The problem we encountered in this attempt to unionise women cleaners, not only with the contract system and the employers but also with the union officials, combined with a pamphlet written by Selma James, on women, the trade unions and work, to raise the whole issue of our approach to women employment and trade unions.

Some women in the London workshop began to argue that it was a mistake for socialists and feminists to fight for women to work or to struggle in mixed unions. Women already worked in the home and should be paid wages. There was also talk of separate women's unions. In Arsenal, we did not see work as the single answer to women's liberation. But we were against wages for housework as we thought this would not change the existing division of work between men and women. In October 1972, we produced an issue of "Shrew" on work. This included a summary of women's strikes since 1968, articles on black women's position in the labour market, on teachers, secretaries, trade unions, equal pay, housework, motherhood, relationships with children. We wanted a shorter working week for men and women with full pay so both could care for children, tax concessions, not only for biological parents but for groups of people involved in childcare as well as a wide range of other childcare facilities.

By this time there was neither a workshop, a consciousness-raising group nor a study group in Hackney. But there was a network of libertarian women, some of whom had helped to produce the Women's Newspaper and the Miss World pamphlet. They had felt the



January 1978: Pro-abortion campaigners lobby Hackney Council over their decision to let the anti-abortion charity Let Live open a hostel in Hackney.

workshop did not take up local community issues which affected most women in their everyday life. They were involved in the claimants' union and in squatting. They were already interested in women's health, both in terms of the National Health Service and self-examination

us were working full-time, had other women's movement commitments and some also had children. Other women in Hackney were moreover getting more deeply involved in housing struggles and defending Rose Ingleby when she was evicted. They even occupied Hackney Town Hall in protest.

... HOW

groups. There was also a Women's Voice group which emphasised women's situation as workers.

The issue of family allowances (now Child Benefit) was forced on the women's movement by the Tory tax credit plan. Like Essex Road Women's Centre, Arsenal believed the money should go to the person who was mainly responsible for caring for the child. This would usually be women but we did not want to exclude single fathers. With Walthamstow, Stratford and Ilford we formed the North East London Women's Family Allowance Campaign. We also tried to link up with Communist Party women in Tower Hamlets, Women's Voice in Hackney and with libertarian women.

Leaflets

Arsenal helped to call a meeting in Conway Hall, leafleted Ridley Road and gave out a thousand leaflets which we followed up on the estate on Queensbridge Road and neighbouring streets. We mainly got a good response to our petition, though one woman said, "I'm not going to sign so all those unemployed men can have more babies. Dirty buggers." I tried to get her to support free contraception which we'd helped Walthamstow group campaign for!

But after all this work, only one woman came to our meeting. She wanted to talk about her divorce, and not about family allowances! I had been involved in many non-starters like this in Hackney before and was inclined to shrug it off. But most women in Arsenal were very upset at our failure. As a result, it was felt that we had not the resources to embark seriously on local organising. Many of

The first community nurseries in Hackney were starting around this time as well, while in Islington the women's centre was growing. So in Arsenal we tried to discuss some of the issues which had been raised by the family allowance campaign, wages for housework, the state reforms and class. We got into rather deep water but we did prepare a paper for the second Socialist Feminist Conference in London in the autumn of 1973.

Education

We were searching for something which related to our outside working lives and which could be of use to other people. Because many of us did or had worked in further education we decided to do a pamphlet about girls' training and women's studies. We did a short paper for a conference of trade unionists organised by the National Council for Civil Liberties in February 1974 and repeated it at the Women and Socialism conference in Oxford the following autumn.

By 1974, the political strains upon the structure of the London workshop were very severe. Behind the arguments about structure were big differences between women who were separatists and those of us who were not. Also new structures like Working Women's Charter, outside the workshop network, were appearing. On 14 September 1974, through the women's sub-committee of the trades council, there was a meeting on women's work in Hackney. I went to this as a representative from Arsenal. Everyone else went to an angry women's liberation workshop meeting. The two events were poles apart.

November 1977: Reclaiming the Night. Women march the streets of Soho demanding the right to walk at night without being molested by men. (Angela Phillips, IFL).



We began to shift away from the London workshop towards national women and socialism conferences and towards mailing local links with women in Hackney and Islington. With Essex Road women's centre we called a meeting of socialist feminists in London to report on what we were doing. We were amazed when women from 60 groups came. We set up regular monthly meetings to introduce new members to groups and to try and keep in touch with what all the diverse women's groups in Hackney and Islington were doing. These meetings continued for nearly two years and we did bring together women from health groups, consciousness-raising groups, the Abortion Campaign, the Working Women's Charter, Women in Manual Trades. But Islington groups came more than those from Hackney. Also, we never managed to be really comprehensive. There were such a variety of groups by this time in Hackney and Islington which ranged from Women's Aid for battered women, Gingerbread for single parents, and Under Fives, community nursery groups. I think partly because some of these were not simply women's groups

girls and further education. We had worked collectively on shorter projects before, but this took so long that everyone became stale and we could not divide the work equally in a continuing way. It also raised a lot of political questions to which we did not have answers and got partially buried in the effort to finish. What were the political implications of trying to get more women into the skilled section of the working class? How did women's attitudes to skilled work relate to other aspects of their consciousness of themselves? The traditional approach of "women's rights" to training which dealt with teachers, careers officers, trade union officials and employers did not really connect with the feminist emphasis upon changing women's and girls' consciousness. As feminist teachers how did we cope with the clash between what many girls wanted and what we thought as feminists they should want? We never resolved these problems. Though we wrote our pamphlet, it was not published, and none of us felt really happy with it. We did do an article, however, for a radical teachers' paper.

50th ISSUE

CELEBRATION PARTY

SOULYARD

plus **DISCO: BAR**

Chats Palace

Brooksby's Walk, E9

Sunday 18th November 8pm

Entrance £1 (unwaged 75p)

22 22a 236 S2 buses

Come early! Bar closes 10.30pm!

FAR HAVE WE COME?

their connection to the women's movement was now more complicated. Also they tended to include people who were very deeply committed and had very little time to spare. The meetings were also only partially successful in involving new members. After these collapsed Arsenal did try and hold other meetings for women who were not in groups, but as at Essex Road,

The next Women and Socialism Conference at Mile End was a disaster because of very sectarian interventions by a few women from tiny Trotskyist groups for which no one was prepared. Arsenal did a workshop and a large part of the conference came as we were the only independent women's group who had any alternative paper ready on organisation.

women's movement from the early direct action tactics, self-help or consciousness-raising groups. It was strengthening to realise we could hold large public meetings and campaign with loudspeaker vans like a formal political organisation. But we found it difficult to carry over the experience of the women's movement in discussing abortion in relation to our personal experience of our sexuality, our relationships, our attitudes to having children or childcare. There had been other local attempts consciously to combine personal exploration with public political action, for example a food co-op on an estate in East London and a women's group at Lesney's toy factory. We could not make these connections in relation to the national campaign for abortion.

On a smaller scale, this was a problem in the Arsenal group as well. From the outside, we appeared to be a successful and productive women's group with a long history. But we never managed to overcome many tensions which had been there from the start. The personal never did become quite the political even in our small group. There was an unevenness in friendship patterns outside meetings. Sometimes, we ignored people's feelings in our efforts to complete projects. Or people felt let down because the others did not turn up to leaflet or give talks. Awkward silences appeared as people felt unwilling to take the initiative in case it was dominating. There were also differences which could be enriching in the good periods and cause conflicts in the bad times. Some women worked full-time or part-time, some had children others did not, some had a

background of socialist activity before the women's movement, others became socialists through feminism. Our class backgrounds ranged from lower middle class to upper middle class. Some came from intellectual, liberal or left-wing families, others from right-wing backgrounds in which we were the first to go into higher education.

Personal

In autumn 1975 I wanted to talk about the clash between feminism and organising on the left. This was partly because of NAC and partly a result of the Mile End conference. But another woman opposed this for it would further exclude personal experience and create an unequal power situation between women with a knowledge of left group theory and practice and those without. So we returned to the sources of our feminism as a consciousness-raising group. We chose subjects individually important to us, our work, our families, growing old, women's songs and writing.

This increasingly personal emphasis became more vital for an older member became ill with cancer. We were part of a network helping her with cooking, cleaning and travelling through a long illness and attended her funeral with many others to pay tribute to her life and her work with women.

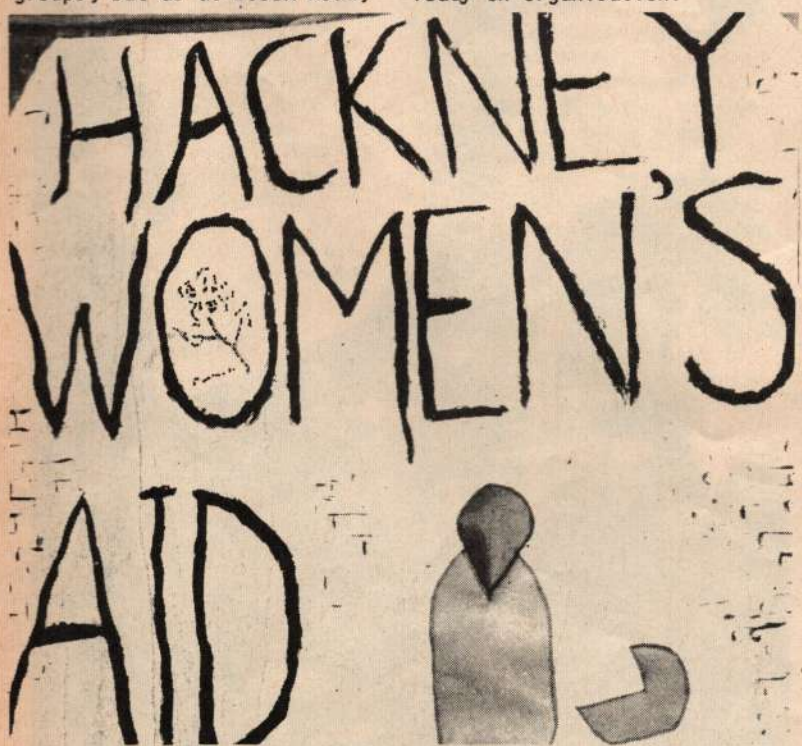
After this we closed together in a personal way and in 1977-78 became really a social group who employed seeing one another. We were all involved in many different aspects of the women's movement and found we had less energy for Arsenal. Some of us joined socialist feminist groups or other consciousness-

raising or study groups. We had a new phase of energy for a time in discussing recent Marxist theory and trying to see how it related to feminism but the impetus had gone and rather unsatisfyingly we dwindled to a halt in the autumn of 1978. It was like the end of a huge collective relationship because the women's centre in Islington had also collapsed.

In the late 1970s, the growth of socialist feminist and Women's Voice groups marked a more explicitly socialist phase of women organising. Community groups in which women work with men are much stronger now than in 1970. Practical campaigns to defend abortion rights and resist the devastating cuts are obvious priorities. There are also many informal support networks all over Hackney among women in which feminists are involved. Sometimes these can become the basis for more public action. For instance, in the Sandringham Road Housing Action area an Under Fives group has been formed to try and get a toddlers' drop-in centre.

But the communication of the collective experience of women organising locally, which has been a much deeper process than a single personal account can express, remains piecemeal and haphazard. I still wonder uneasily about how women can become involved who do not see themselves as socialists or who do not bump into a friendship network. I also feel again that there is an urgency to learn what groups exist in Hackney and what they are doing. There have been moves in Islington for women to get together. Is there any chance of us doing this in Hackney this winter?

Sheila Rowbotham



1975: Hackney's first refuge for battered women opens.

there was a high turnover and we never felt we had found a solution to the continuing problem in the women's movement of creating a trusting personal small group atmosphere without discouraging new women by appearing to be small cliques and networks which no one could find, join or connect with.

We had run into serious difficulty when we tried to write up our pamphlet on

For a while after this there were no more national conferences and we had London socialist feminist educationals for about a year.

There was no longer a network of consciousness-raising and study groups in East London. But the National Abortion Campaign became very active. We had big meetings with left-wing Labour MPs. These marked quite a political change in the

LOCAL POLITICS AND COMMUNITY ACTION

This is the first article that I have written for Hackney People's Press that will actually have my name at the bottom of it. Although over the last five years I must have written hundreds of articles, totalling thousands of words, I have never signed any of them, for various reasons. Sometimes because I have not been particularly happy with what I have written but mainly because I have always regarded the writing of an article as just part of the collective effort of producing and selling the paper.

Now I want to attach my name to this piece because this is a personal article, about why I think that papers like Hackney People's Press are important, and what I think we should be struggling to achieve. I have wanted to write an article on this subject for some time, and this fiftieth issue seems to be an appropriate place.

It would be true to say that HPP has been the most important part of my life for the last five years, and the major part of the development of my own political consciousness. Although I have known that myself for a long time I have only recently begun to sort out exactly what the politics of a paper like ours are. So, at the risk of boring you all to death, or astounding you with how lightweight my analysis is, I shall try and explain.

The essence of what I want to say is that the function of the paper is to promote

just society - can be developed in the community and in the home, where sexism and racism often begin.

And this is where a paper like Hackney People's Press can be most effective. By opening up issues in the local context, their relevance becomes immediately more apparent and radical policies, if they are persuasively argued, more readily acceptable. So a local newspaper which is prepared to support - and encourage - people who are, in the clichéd phrase, trying to take back some control over their own lives, will be of value. This is what we want to be - a focus and information point for local struggle.

The steady advance of the state into all aspects

of comrades joining them and bringing a Labour government to power which would implement socialist policies and involve the people in decision making is remote. Even Tony Benn is unlikely ever to become leader of the Labour Party, and he is by no means the perfect candidate for a workers' leader.

Bureaucracy and democracy

But we still have slightly more control over our own "local state", although not much. The Council is large, bureaucratic, secretive and undemocratically controlled. But we can see it operate much more easily and it is, just, more amenable to pressure from the people of the

Borough. A local paper like the Hackney Gazette will never supply the impetus for this pressure. We will have to fight to apply this, and this is what HPP is trying to do (although not, thank God, on its own!).

It is my personal view that the fight cannot happen just inside the Labour party, or any other single party of the left. And anyway, there is no reason why people should think that they have to work inside the party political structure. We have to build links between this structure and everyone else who is campaigning or thinking about ways of change. This, I would hope, means every reader of this paper.

And that is the simple reason why I, personally,

time in the last five years of my life working for Hackney People's Press. All that time, I have been dissatisfied with what we have actually been doing at that particular time, but it is the idea (a Utopian dream, if you like) of what a radical weekly local paper, democratically run and not subject to commercial pressure, could become that has kept me going. It would be worth all the late nights, the inky fingers, the sore feet, the gallons of petrol and the horrendous phone bills if the next fifty issues put us somewhere closer to that goal.

And it's been a lot of fun as well, so thanks to everyone else who has helped us.

Charles Foster



of daily life has accelerated under successive governments, Labour even more than Tory. Even voting Labour "without illusions", which is what some left groups urged us to do last May is just a

City Farm blocked

For almost a year the Hackney City Farm project has been searching for a site for a community run farm for the borough. Now it seems that their project will be thwarted by GLC plans for a car park nobody wants.

The site that is most suitable is an old coal depot in Millfields, on the edge of Hackney Marshes. This is between the River Lea and an expanse of football pitches. The site comprises five acres and is now derelict. It is surrounded by a high brick wall, within a stone's throw of high density Council housing estates. The depot has been "designated" for leisure and recreation purposes, and at the GLC Open Spaces Committee meeting in June, it was recommended that they acquire the land for use as a car park and "passive recreation". The City Farm project presented alternative plans for the farm, and had support from many organisations and individuals. These included the Lea Valley Authority, Hackney Council and all the local MPs and GLC councillors. Hackney Council has also applied for planning permission for an adjacent site, for travellers. But on 3rd October the Committee agreed to go ahead with its own plans, with the City Farm project hardly being mentioned.

The GLC project will cost £130,000. The City Farm project will cost the GLC nothing, and will be eligible for job creation scheme subsidy, and would be high in the list for funding under the partnership plans.

Hackney Central MP Stanley Clinto Davis (seen in the



picture with Ernie Roberts MP and Sabrina Aaronovitch of the City Farm project) has agreed to lead a deputation to the next meeting of the GLC Open Space Committee.

The City Farm project are particularly disappointed because they know that there

is nowhere else in Hackney that would be so suitable and they feel that it is only stubbornness that is stopping the GLC from letting the project go ahead.

You can contact the City Farm project at 12 Leaside Road, E5. 806 1367.

"Socialist literature has never been rich in books. It is written for workers for whom one penny is money, and its main force lies in its small pamphlets and its newspapers. Moreover, he who seeks for information about socialism finds in books little of what he requires most. They contain the theories or the scientific arguments in favour of socialist aspirations, but they give no idea how the workers accept socialist ideals and how they could put them into practice. There remains nothing but to take collections of papers and read them all through - the news as well as the leading articles - the former, perhaps, even more than the latter. Quite a new world of social relations and methods of thought and action is revealed by this reading, which gives an insight into what cannot be found anywhere else, namely the depth and the moral force of the movement, the degree to which men are imbued with the new theories, their readiness to carry them out in their daily life and to suffer for them."

Peter Kropotkin, *Memoirs of a Revolutionist*, 1904

community politics. This does not mean the politics of cracked paving stones, so beloved on many Liberals, where a belief that complaining about poor environmental and social conditions, coupled with energetic work by local councillors, means an overall improvement in the quality of life.

Community politics, community socialism, is something much more. It is the belief that the struggle for socialism - the fight for a more

farcical gesture. Parliamentary democracy is an illusion when we are ruled by this curious amalgam of a capitalist and a welfare state.

I don't believe that mere advocacy of a revolutionary solution to this problem is an answer. The system has to be changed, and it can only be changed from the bottom up. There are a handful of good, principled MPs in the House of Commons, but the possibility of enough good

HACKNEY PAPER KIDS Nov.

pop music

Pop music has a new celebrity Gary Newman who is the ninth person to get his first two records at No 1. I think he's got the same looks and voice as rock star David Bowie. His two records were; Our friends Electric and Cars

The Police, a kind of new wave band are also heading up to the right place with three hits: Roxanne, I can't stand losing, and their first number one, Message in a Bottle.

Mod Group Secret Affair had a top twenty hit with

"Time for Action".

I interviewed a punk rocker called Steve King, and I asked him what he thought about Sham 69. He said that he thought that they had been good at the beginning, but then they started to get commercial. He thought that their best ever record was "Borstal Breakout", but when asked his opinion of the album of the same name said "No Comment".

"The Ruts were described as a great live band, and -h the Sex Pistols are also a band that he likes a lot. Here is a list of

bands with their best records.

Band	Best Single
The Ruts	In A Rut
Sex Pistols	God Save the Queen
Public Image	Public Image, the single.
Skid	Sweet Suburbia
	Into the Valley



THE POLICE



REG

What is the hottest part of the Sun ?

Page 3.

Patient to doctor "I feel like a pack of cards"
Doctor "Sit over there and I'll deal with you later."

What is navy blue, swings through the trees and is highly dangerous ?

A gorilla in a boiler suit with a machine gun.

Customer "Waiter, waiter, there's a fly in my soup
Oh shit wrong joke

Customer "Waiter, waiter, is there soup on the menu ?"
Waiter "No, sir, I just wiped it off."

Why did the chicken cross the road ?

For foul purposes.

What do you get when you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole ?

A hot cross bunny.

First RIGHTS

N.C.C.L. - 85p

FIRST RIGHTS

Did you know that if you're a schoolgirl: It is your lawful right to do woodwork, or indeed any subject offered to the pupils of your school, as by law no school under the control of the local education authority is allowed to offer a subject to only boys or only girls.

Did you know that: Each school is required to keep a book in which are recorded all corporal punishments given to the pupils.

Did you know that: Your school can keep a file on you which can contain any information that the school sees fit to record, whether it is out of date, irrelevant or whatever. They also don't have to show these files to pupils or their parents if they don't want to.

Well if you didn't know, you soon would have if you had a copy of "First Rights", a book that has been produced by the National Council of Civil Liberties. It is a kids handbook (although many adults would probably be interested as well) that contains 112 pages that inform you of your rights

as a child. It is clearly written, and explains the law, the reason for it and what you can do when you cross it. There are ten chapters including School, Juvenile Court and Alcohol and Drugs. The book also supplies you with the names of other books you might like to read and groups and organisations you can contact if you have a problem.

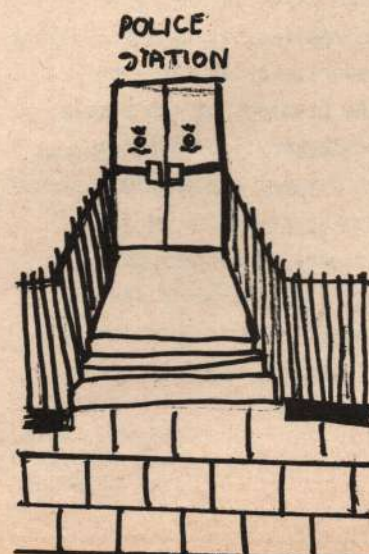
Also included is a chart that tells you the rights you have as you get older.

All in all for 85p it is certainly a book that I would recommend, and it makes very interesting reading even if none of the problems discussed actually affect you.

On Saturday the 29/9/79 we went to Islington police station because they had an open day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They told us some information about the modern police service, and this is what they said.

"The work of the police is vital to everyone in the country. There are some police whose job it is to work under water. The frogmen are used mainly for murders to go the bottom of ponds and find the murder weapon."

The police force is a sexist career because you don't see women driving cars or riding horses. All you see them doing is working computers.



Have we REALLY got rights

The Police- Another point of view.

Why do the police always stop black people on the street.

Me and my friend were walking through Pembury estate when two policemen came up to us and said "We want to search you" They found nothing you" They found nothing, and we started to laugh. Then one of them said "What are you laughing for, you black bastard." Then the other one said "We are going to charge you for walking on private property." But it was public property. Then came a west Indian lady who just walked past, and they didn't try and arrest her and say that it was private property.

NEXT MONTH esther rantzen interview REVIEW

JULIUS
CAESAR



At half term I went to see Julius Caesar, at St Georges Theatre on Holloway Rd.

On the way we looked in at the window, and saw the actor putting on make up.

We paid £2.50 to get in. We got there at 2.15, but the play started at 2.30, so we listened to some Shakespearean music. The play started, then on came Caesar, played by a man that I saw on T.V. a couple of times.

The exciting part was when Caesar died, and when Mark Anthony was talking to the people, he started with "Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears."

The final part I liked was when the war broke out and Brutus died.

If you do not understand this, go and see the play, but read the book first.

ONE ON ONE

This film was about a boy who was a basket ball player who went to play for a team. He had to do a lot of training but was not doing well. His

manager wanted the boy to put in his resignation, but the boy would not, so his manager decided to come rough, so the coach got a big strong hefty boy to take on the other boy, and he got a punch in the mouth and he got knocked about.

A few weeks later the team was going to have a big match and the manager did not pick the boy, he put him as substitute.

Both teams played well, but the team that the boy was on, was losing by eight points. The manager decided to put him on in the game, and the boy played his best and he scored seven points as soon as he went on all in a and he was the best in the team. When the game was over, everyone in his team packed him up and carried him to his dressing room. After this the boy was a star, and he played for the team again and again in many more matches, and the manager told the boy that he was wrong about him, and then it finished.

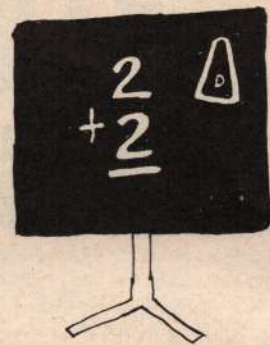
I thought that this film was very good, and the cast played very well.

The End.

SAVE OUR SCHOOL

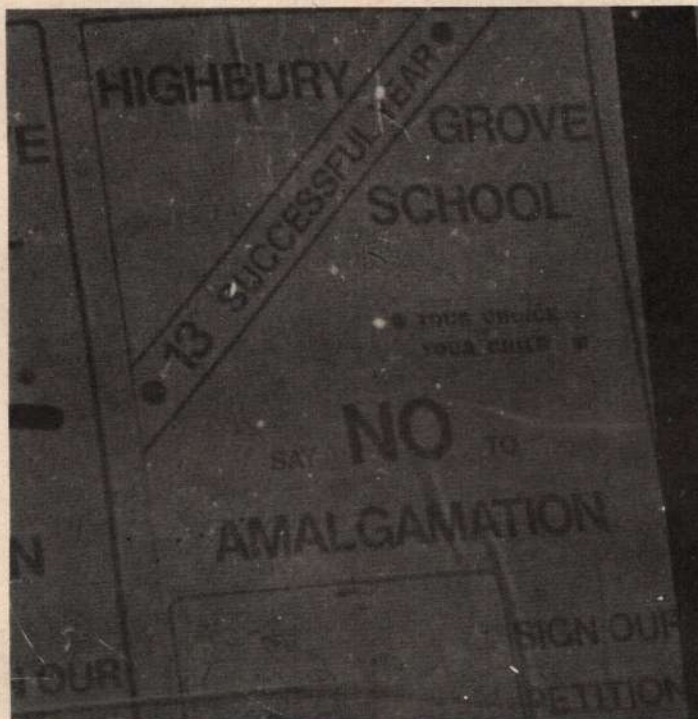
In Highbury Grove, Islington there stands a comprehensive school that has been active for 13 years. Opened in 1967 Highbury Grove Secondary School has acquired for itself a reputation, through the exam results and sporting achievements, that it is outstanding compared with other secondary schools in London. It even stands up well against private and public schools.

But now the extremely popular school, which is heavily oversubscribed every year has been threatened with amalgamation with another school, Sir Philip Magnus. This merger would destroy Highbury Grove.



Reasons (?)

ILEA's reason for the attack on such a highly successful school is that the pupils transferring from primary to secondary in the near future will drop sharply and there will be too few pupils for too many schools. Some schools must therefore merge to compensate for this.



Newboys

Firstly, I believe that ILEA should check their figures, which may only be concerned with the birth rate. They must

also consider the pupils moving into the borough. Also presuming ILEA's figures are correct then, rather than merge Highbury Grove with Sir Philip Magnus, wouldn't it be better to shut down a few rooms in the Highbury Grove building, and make fewer classes with the pupils available. This would leave Highbury Grove with its name and identity (Incidentally the name for the new school would be Newboys) Newboys!"

However ILEA would probably object to this because of the Tory cuts, claiming that it is uneconomical to keep open a school if it contains less pupils.

To offset this closure threat, the parents of the pupils attending the school have a Parents action committee. Petition forms have been sent round all over the country, and I believe that at the last count the signatures collected amounted to 10,000.

The teachers are also opposed to the closures. Even the pupils are doing something with the sixth form producing badges against the closure, "Save Highbury School"

As a pupil I hope they do.

KIDS PAGE TALKS TO MP

Christopher Bryant, Paul Bel- leini and Lee James interviewed Ernie Roberts at the House of Commons.

Question 1. We asked Ernie Roberts why he became an M.P. (Member of Parliament).

He said, "For ages, people have wanted to vote, and so they formed a political party and called it the Labour Party. He said that he wanted to become a Labour M.P. in the interests of the working class."

5,000 LETTERS A YEAR

Question 2. What is it like being an M.P. ? He replied "It is the opportunity to take up the problems of the people of Hackney. I have a lot of letters and people coming to see me at the surgery. (A surgery is where people go to see their M.P. with problems) I get over 5,000 letters a year."

Question 3) How did you feel after the last General Election when the Tories came to power ?

"Well I was very disappointed. I was hoping that we would come in and have the Labour majority which was socialist and which would tackle with energy a lot of problems facing the ordinary people of Britain, particularly the sort of people there are in Hackney. However this was not so, as you say the Tories came to power and as a result they are

attacking the health services, the educational services and the housing programme, all the social services.

The money which is being saved, they're handing out to the rich in tax rebates

Question 4) Is it as bad as you thought it would be when the Tories came in ?

I expected the Tories to attack the living conditions and the working people, but they've been more drastic than expected,

like as you say they have been closing down local hospitals which are badly needed in Hackney. They want to close local schools which are still needed in Hackney, and in housing, there are 12,000 people on the housing list and the local authority was refused the money to go ahead and build more houses and to spend the money needed to rehabilitate houses which need modernising and

because there are many houses in Hackney which need modernising to be livable in.

To Be Continued

information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.

The information on this page has been revised and updated, but we would welcome any further corrections or additions. For the December issue please send them to us by FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER. Our address is HPP, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.

Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
34 Dalston Lane, E8
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT
74 Downham Road N1.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm

OFF CENTRE
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146 (office hours)

FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS
Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact

Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE,
17 Victoria Park Square, E2 981 1221.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

HOMERTON GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

Ecology

HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
Active group, campaigning on safe energy, bikes, wildlife, recycling etc. Contact Jim Read, 67 Fairholt Road, N16. 802 0122.

HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP
Open to all those wishing to combat nuclear power. Meets every other Thursday in Centerprise. Contact 226 1799

SUN POWER ECOLOGY CENTRE
83, Blackstock Road, N.4.
Bookshop specialises in the environment, cooking, health, education, childrens' books; also crafts and some wholefoods. 01 226 1799

HACKNEY SOCIETY

An amenity group, affiliated to the Civic Trust, concerned with Hackney's environment and architecture. Meets on the third Monday of each month.
Details from Chairman, David Batchelor, Tel. 985 7937 or Secretary, Robert Hill, 75 Glyn Road E5 Tel. 986 8761.

Women

HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets monthly - talks, films, activities. For information phone Nathalie 254 9508.

Community Centres

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
Bookshop and office hours:
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.

FACILITIES:
Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.
ADVICE CENTRE:
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm.
READING CENTRE:
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.
PUBLISHING PROJECT:
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney.

WALLY FOSTER CENTRE
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.
Community Centre with many activities:
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: every weekday 9am-5pm.
ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:
Every Monday at 7pm.
Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.
See also **ADVICE** and **NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES** listings.

THE FACTORY
107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3066.
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in group (creche provided), after school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.
Contact them for further details.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities.
Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays, 1.30-3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome).
"Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays, 5.30-7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating.
Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
Contact them for further information.
Also see **ADVICE** and **Neighbourhood English** Classes and **Gingerbread** under **COMMUNITY GROUPS** listings on this page.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal advice centre, after-school junior club and writers' workshop as well as evening classes in shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts, old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama Group.
Many events take place in the theatre each month - see the **EVENTS** and **MEETINGS** section. Also see **ADVICE** listing.

Education

ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES
For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.

Donald Kenrick, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.

Graham Morris, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 249 7221.

June Hewes, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street, N1. 739 5153.

Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.

Cal Weatherald, Highbury Manor AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4 226 9190.
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. 739 5431.

HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME
Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney. For further information contact Annette Giles, 249 1496, or call at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N.16 on Thursday mornings.

Meditation

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION
Partnership for Progress in Hackney: regular introductory talks. Ring 254 6280 for details.

ANANDA MARGA
1 Cazenove Road, N.16.

For spiritual progress and social change.
Meditation classes for men Wednesday 8.00pm
Meditation classes for women Tuesday 8.00pm and Wednesday 2.00pm.
Sewing class Tuesday 7.00pm.

OFF CENTRE

Drop-in centre for Young Unemployed.

Free snacks, use of telephones and newspapers. A meeting place for the young unemployed.

Off Centre Basement, 25 Hackney Grove, E8. 986 4016.

Advice



Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3904.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.
STOKE NEWINGTON ADVICE GROUP SERVICE
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

ALLEN ROAD
12 Allen Road, N16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).

Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY. 245 Mare St, E8.
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems. 986 4121.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE
5 Stamford Hill, N16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE** and **FRIENDS ANONYMOUS**. See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see **LABOUR PARTY** under **POLITICAL GROUPS** listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?
EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE
Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

Workshops

THE WORKSHOP
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.
Print your own posters and T-shirts. Cost of materials only. Open by arrangement.

COMET WORKSHOP
Halcomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936
Learn sewing, macrame, toymaking, woodwork. Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee. Open every weekday.

WORKSHOP
77a, Lauriston Road, E.9.
01 986 9585 Open 10.00 - 6.00 Mon. - Sat.
Pottery workshop and shop selling ceramics and pottery handmade in the workshop. Also Macrame plant hangers, jewelry, cards and other crafts.

Gays

GAY SWITCHBOARD
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)
East London CHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

GEMMA
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.

Transport

HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP
Contact Tessa Bain, 10 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 4559

Health

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2 Tel. 739 6308/8351.
The public's voice in the NHS-provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes **HEALTH IN HACKNEY**, a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Pardon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

Volunteers needed at: Huddleston Centre, St James the Great Church, Lower Clapton Rd. E.5. 01 985 8869.

THE BIRTH CENTRE
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital. Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION
188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL CAMPAIGN

Hackney & District branch.
Meets at John Scott Health Centre, Green Lanes, N4.
Contact Rose McNulty 800 3108 (evenings) or Hilda Burd 800 2124 (anytime).

Children

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Information and support for parents with children under school age. Stores open on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Open monthly meetings on 3rd Tuesday of each month. Tel 254 9145.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.

Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Lillian McPetridge

CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE
112b Forest Road E8.
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting-with creche.

Food

TOWARDS JUPITER
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.
FOOD FOR ALL
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts.

SHANTI VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT
1 Cazenove Road, N.16

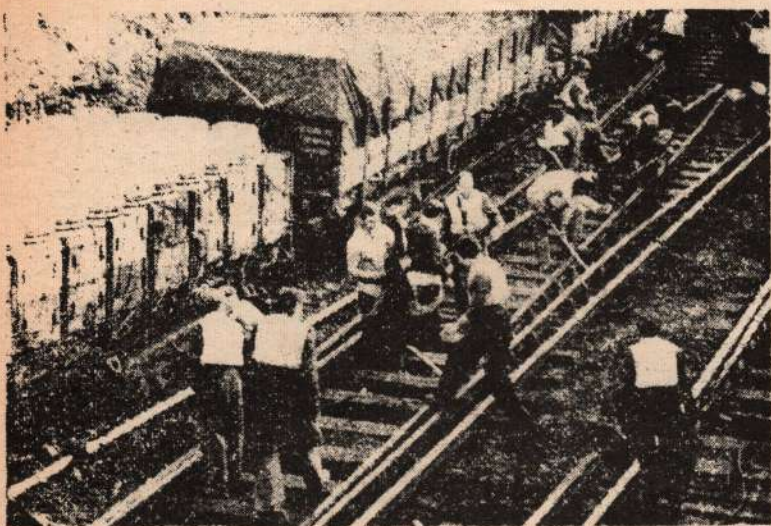
Vegetarian meals.
Wed, Thurs and Fri 7.00-9.00pm.
Sat 12.00-2.00pm.
Full vegetarian meal 65p.

Vegetarian cookery classes:
Wed 5.30pm and Sat 10.30am.

Music

POETRY AND MUSIC CLUB
The Chatterbox, 1a, Chatterton Rd, (off Blackstock Rd.) Finsbury Park, N.4.
Weds. 8.00 - 11.00 p.m.
All welcome. 20p admission. Performers free.

ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free.
Ring Dave 249 0025.



Nuke train next?

This train was derailed between Canonbury and Dalston Junction stations on the North London Line on 22nd October, disrupting commuter services. It was carrying beer, so we were told. This is the same line where every week goods trains carry nuclear waste and fuel to and from nuclear power stations in Essex. Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group campaigners have been warning local people of the dangers of transporting nuclear substances through built-up areas like Hackney. How long will it be before a nuclear train is derailed? The China Syndrome comes to Dalston...?

What's left...

The date for the next "What's Left for Hackney" conference has been moved back two weeks to Sunday 9 December, because a major demonstration on immigration controls has been called for the day originally planned.

The conference will still take place at the All Nations Club, in Martello Street, E8.

Speakers at the main sessions will be Sheila Rowbotham, Stuart Weir, Ted Knight and David Green. Sessions will be chaired by Helen Rosenthal and Gerry McMorrow.

There will also be workshops as indicated in the last issue of HPP. For full details and a booking for please contact HPP, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Refreshments and creche will be provided.

Damp might spread

The problems of damp and condensation that Hackney tenants have faced on the Smalley estate in Stoke Newington may exist on more than 30 other estates throughout the rest of the borough. This is not just speculation, since this number of estates have been built to the same "Co-ordinated housing" pattern, developed by the Council's architect, Terry Roberts.

Similar problems were reported in the Cowper Road estate nearly two years ago, and have recently come to light also on the Holmleigh estate.

With this in mind the last joint meeting of the two housing committees, held at the end of September, resolved to commission the independent experts, Building Systems Development, who produced the controversial report on Smalley, to conduct a survey of these other estates.

However when the committees report was considered by the full Council, this recommendation was not on the report. Nor was another recommendation that Building Systems Development be appointed to oversee the Council's remedial work on Smalley.

This prompted Anthony Kendall, who has been more involved with the Smalley problem than anyone else, to

complain that the committee's decisions were not being followed up. He was not at all satisfied that the council was going to do all the work they had committed themselves to. And, he added, if he was not satisfied that the recommendations were to be followed then he would speak out in public. "Whatever the consequences," he said, darkly. We wait now to see what happens next month!

One decision was taken by

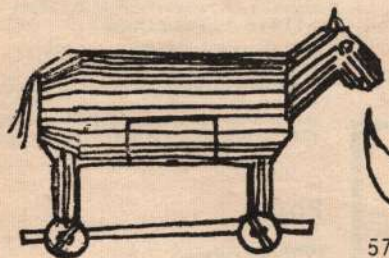
the Council which may, or may not, be a consequence of the Smalley fiasco. The position of Director of Planning and Development, which is a new appointment who will oversee the Borough Architects Department, did not go to Terry Roberts, although he was shortlisted. As the internal candidate, he might have been expected to be the front-runner. Are there any changes going to be made, we wonder?



INSIDE LEFT

We regret that transfer negotiations which were pending at the time of printing our last issue have not yet been completed, and have yet to be ratified by the Alternative Newspapers (Ace Reporters) Association. Thus we are unable, as yet, to bring you the first scribbles from the pen of our latest secret weapon, Gerald-the-Mole (whoops!) **INSIDE LEFT**. He hopes to join us for our next issue, however, and has been polishing his green eye-shade for his first sortie Behind Closed Doors (the Hackney version.) Watch out!

ADVERTISEMENT



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PRINTING SERVICES

(254 1306)

57 BALLS POND ROAD, N.1.

Workers' Co-Op (in process of registration).

Congratulates H.P.P. on issue 50.

LEAFLETS

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ORDERS: STANDING CHARGE 50p FOR ONE COLOUR
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T-SHIRTS: £1.50 EACH MINIMUM ORDER 20
FOR TWO COLOUR DESIGN ADD 10p PER T-SHIRT

POSTERS:

DEPEND ON SIZE, QUALITY, COLOURS.
E.G. 100 @ 20" BY 30" 1 COLOUR = £10

We will be pleased to quote for other work we do such as SIGNWRITING, PHOTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPING and MURAL PAINTING.

THIS MONTH IN HACKNEY

GERTRUDE GRIMM's Drop-In Centre (otherwise known as Hackney Girls' Project) is every Wednesday from 7-9 pm, at Centerprise, Kingsland High Street, E8.

Gertrude writes: "We play pool, listen to music, have workshops in woodwork, badgemaking, electrics. We're going to go camping, and out to see bands play, etc. All girls aged between 13 and 19 are welcome." Come along and meet Gertrude and be one of the girls.

Two films about Namibia and the struggle of the Namibian people to liberate themselves from South Africa rule and military occupation will be shown at Centerprise, Kingsland High St., E8 on Friday 9 November at 6.30 pm. They are: "Namibia - The Struggle For Freedom" and "Remember Kassinga". Admission is free.

The film, "Juvenile Liaison", a documentary concerning the Lancashire police scheme for dealing with juvenile offenders will be shown to members of Hackney Legal Action Group in the Rio Cinema, Kingsland High Street, on Sunday 2 December at 3 pm, admission £1. Membership is available at the door on the day on payment of 10p. Further details from Joe Davis on 986 9321.

Public meeting; TEN YEARS OF THE IRISH WAR, FIVE YEARS OF THE PTA. Wednesday 14 November, 7.30pm. Fairholt House, City of London Poly, Whitechapel High Street. Aldgate East tube.

HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR MULTI-RACIAL EDUCATION Public Meeting. "Education in Hackney and the way forward for a multi-racial community." Monday 19th November, 7.30pm. Broke House School (corner of Kenninghall and Clapton Roads). Short film, "The Eye of the Storm".

HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY. Public Meeting Tuesday 19 November, 8pm. Kings Hall, Hackney Baths, Lower Clapton Road. "The Fight against Racism." Speakers include Vishnu Shama (IWA Southall) Maurice Styles (assistant general secretary UPW) Bishop Colin Winter (Bishop of Damara-land in exile) Colin Byfield (Association of Jamaicans in Exile).

NEW COMMUNIST PARTY. Public Meeting. "Ireland". Tuesday 4 December. Hackney Trades Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, 7.45pm. Speakers John Chamberlain and Max Hiron.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

We hold meetings every Monday (except the last one in each month) at 8pm in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. You can come along to one of these meetings and volunteer to help us write, produce or sell the next issue - or simply tell us what you think of the paper.

If you can't come one Monday then write to us c/o Centerprise or ring 249 0311 any evening or weekend.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please

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